



# DC Financial Gateway Express

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## Integration of Financial Services

Commissioner Mirel established a transition team to provide detailed recommendations for combining the staffs and functions of the former DBFI and DISR into the newly formed DISB. The team held its first meeting on March 11 and has started work. They are expected to provide a final report to the Commissioner within 45 days. Portions of the consolidation will begin right away; others may take as long as two months. An integrated budget will be presented to the Council at a hearing on March 31 before the Consumer & Regulatory Affairs Committee.

## DC v. Rosen Company Ruling

The Superior Court ruled for the District in this suit against a public adjuster firm that was scamming the public. The court ordered the company to pay more than \$2 million in restitution and fines and ruled that insurance companies can now pay their insureds directly without going through the public adjuster. DISB issued an order stating that insurance companies, many of which were withholding payments pending the outcome of this suit, must now promptly pay their policyholders. All insurers are required to determine if they have open claims involving the Steven A. Rosen Company or CW Restoration, and report the status of those claims to the Department. Additional details are contained in the order, which is on the Department's website.

## You Need to Know

- **First District—chartered bank** – WashingtonFirst Bank is scheduled to open on April 5. DISB's Banking Bureau and the Federal Office of the Comptroller of the Currency will conduct a joint pre-opening examination.
- **Attention! New Format for Insurance Advisory Committee Meetings** - Commissioner Mirel asked the members of the Insurance Advisory Committee to submit proposed agenda items at least three weeks prior to each quarterly meeting. Meetings are held on the first Thursday following each quarterly meeting of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. We want to make the meetings as productive as possible for all involved, Mirel said. You should send your agenda items to Carmelita Snowden at [carmelita.snowden@dc.gov](mailto:carmelita.snowden@dc.gov). Ms. Snowden will send a final agenda with a reminder two weeks before each meeting.
- **Care First Issues** - A hearing on whether to modify the 1997 Order creating the CareFirst holding company was reconvened on March 19 with a status conference. The next status conference will be held on April 27, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department.
- **The Securities Bureau** is pleased to report that the Investor Protection Trust ("IPT") is about to receive the first of several payments from the firms that settled in the Analyst cases. DC will have access to a proportionate share of the approximately \$30M that is to be paid by the firms for Investor Education.

## A Sad Farewell to a Beloved Colleague

We are deeply saddened to report the death of long-time District government employee and DISR public affairs specialist Linda A. Lewis. Linda died on March 10, 2004 after a long battle with breast cancer. A memorial service was held on March 17, 2004; a host of Linda's current and former co-workers at DISR and DCRA were in attendance. Commissioner Mirel and Linda's supervisor, Dana Sheppard, director of policy and public affairs spoke on behalf of the DC Government. Linda is survived by a seven-year-old son, Jalen. This is the second death in the DISR family in less than two months.